United Nations S/2000/642

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a Joint Communiqué by the Foreign Ministers of Croatia and Montenegro on the issue of Prevlaka (see annex).

I should like to request your kind assistance in distributing this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ivan **Šimonović**
Permanent Representative

00-51313 (E) 300600

Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Communiqué by Tonino Picula and Branko Lukovac, the Foreign Ministers of Croatia and Montenegro, on 30 June 2000

On 24 June 2000, Presidents Stjepan Mesić and Milo Đukanović met in Cavtat, Croatia. They agreed that the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro share concerns regarding the remaining threats to international peace and security in the region as well as common ambitions in overcoming them. To this extent, the two presidents pledged the respective commitments of Croatia and Montenegro to continue to cooperate closely in pursuit of lasting peace and good-neighbourly relations. Pursuant to these commitments, we address the issue of Prevlaka on the eve of the upcoming report of the United Nations Secretary-General and possible deliberations of the Security Council under the item "Situation in Croatia".

The Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro continue to support the full demilitarization on both sides of the border in the area of Prevlaka and believe that it has contributed and will further contribute to reducing tensions and stabilizing the entire area. The opening and operation of the border crossings Debeli Brijeg and Konfin in the Prevlaka range has resulted in demonstrable confidence-building among the local population from both sides of the border and provided an impetus for the renewed commercial and other ties between Croatia and Montenegro. Complete demining and unhindered civilian access throughout the entire Prevlaka range and the opportunity to use the natural resources would further strengthen stability and confidence among the local population, restart the tourist economy, and thus constitute another important step towards full normalization of relations.

Croatia and Montenegro consider that UNMOP has been successful in implementing their observer mandate and thus contributing to the demilitarization process. In the light of the above, the two sides remain confident that substantial reduction of UNMOP personnel shall be able to start in the nearest possible future, consistent with the increased development of mutual trust between Croatia and Montenegro and the willingness to take upon themselves responsibility for the security of the area.

Greatly valuing the efforts of the Security Council, we hope that its member States will fully recognize and give support to the endeavours of Croatia and Montenegro directed towards lasting stability. Furthermore, we look forward to the Council's continued commitment in overcoming the other, remaining security problems in the broader area.